

most reputable and qualified entity to date which has reviewed this case, to stand, thus ending the 132-year-long disservice accorded to Dr. Samuel Mudd.

IN HONOR OF LYDIA TRINIDAD: A
DISTINGUISHED WOMAN AND
TRUE HUMANITARIAN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding woman, Ms. Lydia Trinidad, who has distinguished herself through selfless dedication to the residents of my home State of New Jersey. Ms. Trinidad's efforts to further the course of personal development will be recognized at the 17th Annual Humanitarian Awards Dinner of the central New Jersey Chapter of the National Conference on June 12 at the Landmark Inn in Woodbridge, NJ.

Tomorrow's celebration is another milestone in a lifetime of service to others. For 23 years, Ms. Trinidad has worked tirelessly as an advocate for the lives of low-income families and individuals, a segment of our society whose needs are often overlooked. In 1980 Ms. Trinidad joined the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development [PRAHD], then a small community organization. As executive director since 1981, she expanded PRAHD to the comprehensive social services agency it is today, serving 12,000 people annually through its 18 programs. Ms. Trinidad's firm commitment to individual development, family advocacy, and the need for intergenerational interaction permeates every facet of this highly respected organization. Under Ms. Trinidad's direction, PRAHD has become a significant source of employment in the central New Jersey area.

Born on the island of Puerto Rico, Ms. Trinidad moved to Perth Amboy, NJ, in 1959 where she still resides. Ms. Trinidad graduated from Montclair State University with a degree in psychology and a minor in sociology. She has chosen to further her education through participation in a number of training programs and seminars in social work, management, business, and bilingual education. Prior to her tenure with PRAHD, Ms. Trinidad served as a counselor/advocate at the Middlesex County shelter as well as assistant manager of the Community Chapel Home in Perth Amboy.

Personally active in the community, Ms. Trinidad sits on various boards, committees, and civic groups including: the William Paterson College Board of Trustees, the Raritan Bay Medical Center Board of Directors, State of New Jersey Department of Human Services Hispanic Advisory Committee, the Central N.J. Chapter of the National Conference—formerly National Conference of Christians and Jews—the Middlesex County REACH Advisory Committee, the State of New Jersey Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program Advisory Council, and the Puerto Rican Congress of New Jersey as board secretary.

Ms. Trinidad has been recognized for her achievements by various awards, including the William Paterson College Presidents Medal; the City of Perth Amboy's Key to the City; the Community Empowerment Award from the Na-

tional Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.; Woman of Excellence Award for the Middlesex County Commission of the Status of Women, and the Ariel Trophy from the American Association of Writers Journalists.

It is a privilege to have such a considerate and caring person and working on behalf of the residents of my district. Ms. Trinidad exemplifies the ideal of community service at its best. I am certain my colleagues will rise with me and honor this remarkable individual.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ONLY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, it has recently come to my attention that Dr. Albert Schweitzer, well known for his selfless dedication to bringing medical care to thousands of poor Africans, would currently be unlikely to gain admittance to an American medical school due to his status as a Lutheran minister. A recent study of medical school admissions practices identified a pervasive bias against medical school candidates with strong religious views.

This aberration in American education was carefully researched and detailed in an article jointly authored by Albert E. Gunn, Esq., M.D., associate dean of admissions at the University of Texas—Houston Medical School and George O. Zenner, Jr., M.D., associate professor at the University of Texas—Houston Medical School. The research of these two highly qualified professionals warrant careful consideration and, as such, I commend the research done by Drs. Gunn and Zenner and am pleased to enter Joseph Sobran's commentary on this significant work into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ONLY

(By Joseph Sobran)

Do medical schools screen Christians out? The question is rarely asked in public, but it has recently received a public answer anyway, though it's not likely you've heard about it.

An article by Albert E. Gunn and George O. Zenner (both doctors) in the spring issue of *Issues in Law & Medicine*, published in Terre Haute, Ind., offers some appalling findings, taken from interviews and evaluations of applicants to an unnamed school of medicine. The article deserves wider circulation, so permit me to quote extensively from it. It confirms suspicions that hadn't even occurred to me yet, though they should have—proving once again that contemporary life outdoes not only satire, but the most beady-eyed conspiracy theories.

Excerpts from the interviewers' comments on various applicants speak for themselves:

"In discussing various issues related to medicine—especially ethical and moral issues—I felt that her viewpoint was rather narrow or rigid and that she has not thought the issues through very well. She is strongly religious and calls herself a 'Christian'."

"* * * I found Mr. — to be immature and quite rigid in his thinking. * * * His interests seemed to be exclusively in outdoor sports and in church activities. * * * I was somewhat concerned by Mr. —'s attitude toward religion and medicine. He is a strict Christian who believes in the literal truth of the Bible. He does not believe in the Darwinian theory of evolution, and does not feel

that it should be taught in schools and colleges in the way it is presently taught. In hypothetical situations in which he as a doctor might advise a patient about contraception or abortion, Mr. — insisted upon taking a highly moralistic stance. For example, he said that when advising a 25-year-old woman about contraception, he would first want her to convince him that her activities were 'moral.' I found this attitude very disturbing."

"Mr. — is very enthusiastic. * * * God and religion very much influence his life. * * * Mr. — shows potential for a medical career provided he controls his own preconceived attitudes on what will help a patient."

"What makes this interview difficult is that the student is certainly different from most applicants and is heavy on religion, as expressed numerous times in his essay. Knowing how concerned the committee is about such matters, I questioned him in some detail but not in any way, I believe, to influence his answers. * * * He prays frequently and has fasted on one occasion for three days waiting for a message from God to help him make a difficult decision. He does not hear voices. God answers him by giving him a feeling of what is the right decision. A lot of these matters are reminiscent of other applicants that the committee has turned down, fearing either a psychiatric disorder or a situation where the individual as a medical student or physician will 'moralize' or force religion on a patient when not indicated."

And a few brief comments about various applicants, from viewers and the admissions committee:

"Vague discussing abortion."

"He has found God but does not hear voices."

"Negative view of candidate who said she was Catholic and this influenced her view on abortion."

"Applicant would counsel against abortion and would not refer patient for abortion."

"Do not recommend acceptance due to indecisiveness on abortion and pulling the plug."

"Displayed rigidity in comparing future of fetus to future of pregnant 16-year-old girl."

"Rigid, born-again Christian. Has not resolved how abortion will affect medical practice."

The authors of the article note that "several of the applicants appeared reluctant to discuss their views, possibly fearing that their opposition to abortion might jeopardize their selection." No wonder, when the views of those who expressed disapproval of abortion were so often frowningly judged "rigid," "narrow," and even "indecisive." The authors observe: "No extant records contain a case in which an applicant who favored abortion was described in negative terms."

Not that all Christian applicants were rejected, of course—that would be either demographically difficult or at least suspicious-looking. But even the positive comments of the interviewers and committee display a telling bias:

"... I am personally satisfied that he is not a born-again Christian. ..."

"Very religious and moralistic but not evangelistic."

"Mexican-American Catholic, observant, not fanatical."

"He would not hesitate to recommend an abortion or birth control devices to young ladies for whom this would be appropriate. ... While superficially he resembles other applicants who have been objectionable to the committee, on looking more closely, I am sure he should not be regarded as such."

In the interviews and evaluations, the authors point out, only Christian views and